



SITUATION REPORT #140



INCIDENT NAME: Walla Walla County COVID-19 UNIFIED COMMAND

DATE: January 14, 2021	TIME: 14:00 Information is updated at 2pm daily	MISSION #20-0265
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AFFECTED AREA: Walla Walla, Washington

CURRENT SITUATION: COVID-19 Surveillance, Monitoring & Case Investigation/Contact Tracing

2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Walla Walla County Residents -	Number
Total Confirmed Cases	4080
Recovered	3616
Deaths	41
In-County Residents – Hospitalized Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	3
Out-of-County Residents – Hospitalized Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	4
Tests Submitted –	Number
Total Negative Results (Walla Walla County) unable to update at DOH	46,204
Confirmed Cases by Community of Residence	Number
Burbank/Wallula	213
College Place	513
Dixie	16
Prescott	87
Touchet/Lowden	56
Waitsburg	64
Walla Walla	3131
Total	4080



SITUATION REPORT #140



Confirmed Cases by Age		Number
Under 20		504
20-39		1698
40-59		1208
60-79		517
Over 80		153
Confirmed Cases by Gender		Number
Female		1707
Male		2373
TOTAL		4080

REGION 8 PHEPR:

Region 8 PHEPR staff is supporting WWCDCH from their EOC. Next call scheduled for 1/20 3:00-4:00

COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES:

DCH in contact with positive cases, all close contacts on home isolation under daily symptom watch.

- DCH has hired a nurse, a Communications Coordinator and 2 case investigators
- DCH Partnering with Population Health and Whitman College students on 'what to do while waiting for results of testing and how to reduce transmission risk'
- DCH working with businesses and Long-term Care facilities on containment of outbreaks which includes testing, contact tracing and educational information
- DCH and Providence agreement signed to provide isolation and quarantine facilities
- DCH attending Covid Vaccine planning meetings with DOH and Providence
- DCH 'Health Space' and CREST training completed for health data management
- DCH increased staff capacity for case monitoring and contact tracing to be in compliance with variance applications
- DCH continues work surrounding behavioral health (mental health, substance use) and the coronavirus
- Providence Urgent Care Drive-thru testing operational for those with between 7am-6pm daily
- Walla Walla County Unified Command holding Key Stakeholder calls at 9 am Monday and Thursday
- DCH CD call flu, respiratory illness, COVID-19; next call will be Tuesday, January 19th
- DCH attending M-W-F DOH-Epi to Epi call for LHJ's
- DCH WIC Nutrition benefits continuing to ensure food security for families; completed by telephone consulting and online benefit issuance

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

- The Walla Walla County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has downgraded to Level 2, Limited Operations, effective 05/28/2020 as of 0800.



SITUATION REPORT #140

- As of 03/24/2020 Walla Walla County Emergency Management continues to work remotely in order to limit exposure that might affect 911 and dispatch personnel who share the facility.
- The Walla Walla County Commissioners signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- The City of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended on 4/8/20.
- The City of College Place signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended 6/9/20.
- The City of Waitsburg signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/18/20.
- The Port of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/19/20, extended 5/28/20.
- The City of Prescott signed a Declaration of Emergency Effective 3/19/20.
- Walla Walla County remains in modified operations/access during regular business to certain county departments.
- Remains in a Unified Command with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health. Unified Command was established 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- Washington State Emergency Management is now requesting that all Tier 1 priorities be consolidated into a single order. Long Term Care facilities are now considered to be part of the Tier 1 priority, with further changes expected. Tier 2-4 priorities will be consolidated in a 2nd request. Next request period will be for the week beginning 01/18/21
- PPE tier allocation is changed beginning June 5, 2020, to allow Tier 1 requestors to build on hand supplies to levels sufficient for 14-21 days.

1. Outstanding Resource Requests

WA State Tracking Number	Request Date	Agency	Current Status
WA-202111115439	1/11/21	PSMMC	Accepted

January 14, 2021

2. Effective Strategies and Successes

- Walla Walla County Department of Community Health (DCH)/Providence St Mary Medical Center (PSMMC) flu vaccine clinic at First Fruits; 700 doses administered.
- PSMMC/EMS planning effort to provide rapid testing to first responder community.
- Businesses have benefited from funding that has been distributed.
- EMS first responders have gone through PSMMC testing site(s) according to new plans giving them priority for rapid testing.
- PSMMC stated that previous experience gained in working with WWDCH and other partners on Flu vaccinations have had a significant positive impact on the current vaccine administration.
- Federal government passes continued COVID relief funding and individual assistance.
- The Partnership between all the Walla Walla County response agencies has worked well.



SITUATION REPORT #140

- DCH/PSMMC partnership for Community provider vaccination clinic (continuing phase 1a and now moving into phase 1b) is working well. PSMMC has done a great job vaccinating internally and providing vaccine to others who are eligible.
- Yakima Valley Family Medical Center received 30 vaccines and were able to vaccinate all their staff.
- Partnership with WWEM to implement use of [Washington State Emergency Worker program](#) for volunteer medical personnel and other mass immunization clinic volunteers.
- [Flu cases are below average](#), reducing the load on healthcare systems; PSMMC reports only 2 positive flu tests (with no decrease in flu testing). We would have normally had 100s.
- No issues from this week's weather event; PSMMC did winter 'hardening' and Family Medical Center (FMC) moved their testing inside.

3. Risks and challenges

- COVID-19 Cases
 - Total Confirmed Cases: 4080
 - ❖ Recovered: 3616
 - ❖ Active: 423
 - Home Isolation: 420
 - ❖ Hospitalized: 7
 - 3 are Walla Walla County residents
 - 4 are Out of County residents
 - ❖ Deaths: 41
 - Washington State Penitentiary (included in numbers above):
 - ❖ 98 incarcerated active
 - ❖ 17 staff active
 - Rate per 100K: 12/26-1/8 884 (includes WSP cases)
 - Trends
 - ❖ Continue to see household transmission
 - ❖ Some workplace cases
 - ❖ Average of 30 cases/day
 - ❖ Rising cases across the state (not seen here)
- Concern for rapid spread at congregated facilities.
- Cross-jurisdictional coordination with Umatilla County, OR, Benton/Franklin County, WA.
- Need to continue to monitor for behavioral health issues.
- Cold/flu season; respiratory symptoms may be confused with COVID and require workers to stay home.
- 'COVID fatigue' is very high with additional challenges presented by winter; more time inside, less daylight and sunshine, etc. Need to focus on community resilience.
- People moving indoors due to cold; more close contacts.
- Face coverings not being worn in private even though 95% report wearing masks when in public.
- People are still reporting to work with mild symptoms, or with symptomatic family members.
- Gatherings continue despite recommendations by DCH not to gather.
- Case investigation has been hampered by contacts not being cooperative with contact tracing team, some not answering phone calls from DCH.
- State is reporting a glove shortage; only order what you need.



SITUATION REPORT #140

- Concerns about effects of COVID vaccine.
- Lots of businesses struggling with restrictions.
- Contact tracing is seeing increased numbers of people refusing to speak with the tracers or provide information about exposure.
- Needle shortage is an issue across the state; SEOC does not have them on hand.
- **Continued concerns about regionalized Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery plan. County-by-county seemed to make sense; concerns about being lumped in with other counties, especially with counties that have not done well. There is frustration that locals did not get to have input into the regionalization decision. [Union Bulletin editorial](#) published on Sunday, 1/10.**
- Concerns about compilation of testing results at the state level. With the lag in negative test results- it is very difficult to see where our county is in real time and ultimately impacts the county's ability to advance in the Healthy Washington phasing.
- DCH experiencing large number of calls from residents interested in receiving COVID vaccine.
- Huge logistical challenges to rollout of mass vaccination.
- Coordinated communication of mass vaccination planning effort to the public.
- **Veterans arriving for vaccine at VAMC locations with their spouse; spouse is not eligible unless registered in a VA program as caregivers.**
- **Difficulty procuring Moderna vaccine at the VA level. Vaccination is based on what is being used; difficult to schedule vaccinations.**
- **Issues with reestablishing licenses for retired medical personnel to use them at the mass vaccination clinic. Assistance needed from State DOH to expedite the process of getting licenses restored given the current state of emergency.**

4. Future operational plans (24, 48, and 72 hours out)

- Emergency Management is activated at **Level 2 – Limited Operations** (virtual, with no face-to-face contact).
- WWEM acting as liaison to Washington National Guard (WNG).
- WWEM continued collection of donations.
- Coordination and communication with Unified Area Command State Emergency Operations Center (UAC SEOC). Unified Command SEOC conference call on Thursdays.
- Monitor WebEOC Resource Tracker for delivery of supplies from Washington State to Walla Walla County.
- WWEM submission of new resource requests on WebEOC.
- WWEM distribution of resources.
- DCH weekend staffing.
- Bi-weekly ESF6 Human Services weekly conference calls.
- PSMMC maintaining daily sit reports.
- EMS providers tracking PPE use with CDC PPE Burn Rate Calculator.
- Continue work with the media.
- DCH case investigation/contact tracing of positive cases.
- Reopening Business Workgroup & Business/Economy meeting every Thursday. **They will be discussing regionalization of return to opening instituted by the Governor at today's meeting.**
- DCH and PSMMC are continuing to work with Washington State Department of Corrections for cases at Washington State Penitentiary.



SITUATION REPORT #140

- LTC facilities to continue to test based on CMS requirements to test if positivity rate is over 5%. Currently testing twice weekly. DCH working with LTC facilities to provide test kits and swabs.
 - PSMMC Urgent Care drive through testing operating with extended hours, 7AM – 6 PM.
 - DCH messaging emphasizing the importance of social distancing, masking, limiting gatherings. Will begin messaging around safety of COVID19 vaccine, encouraging residents to participate in getting their COVID immunizations.
 - PSMMC is now offering rapid testing for first responders through the Urgent Care drive through or College Place Express Care. Asymptomatic testing is available through drive through only.
 - REDi Healthcare Coalition:
 - Eastern Washington situational awareness meetings every Tuesday from 3-3:45. Feedback from meeting is then provided to DOH.
 - Situational awareness response surveys Tuesdays/Friday 8 – 11 am. (Healthcare/providers). Information from surveys is communicated with DOH.
 - Weekly workgroup meeting Thursday's 3 – 4 PM.
 - Looking at crisis standards of care planning.
 - LTC facilities have started vaccinating and will continue this week.
 - COVID vaccination in accordance with [DOH newly issued guidance](#).
 - WWEM has begun registration of volunteer medical personnel to assist with administration of COVID vaccine under the Washington State Emergency Worker program. WWEM will also register other volunteers as Emergency Workers for the mass vaccination clinic (parking, greeters, etc.).
 - DCH, WWEM will meet on Friday, 1/15/21, with Rebecca Betts (PSMMC) who has volunteered her services as Volunteer Coordinator for the mass vaccine clinic.
 - Moving forward with planning effort to establish mass vaccination site at the Walla Walla County Fairgrounds Pavilion Building.
 - VAMC administering 2nd doses of COVID vaccine for employees next week.
 - PSMMC started administering 2nd COVID vaccine doses last week, continuing into this week.
 - Phase 1B vaccination advancing faster than expected; DOH calibrating roll out of vaccines to distribute as quickly as possible without overwhelming systems.
 - [200 million more in aid](#) for small businesses, landlords and tenants.
 - Public schools are working on return of students to a hybrid model (part in-person, part remote learning).
- Prepared By:** Liz Jessee & Patrick Purcell, Emergency Management Coordinator, 509-524-2901 or ppurcell@co.walla-walla.wa.us

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Social Media/PIO/Media Requests: eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us

ANTICIPATED NEEDS: Contact tracing and disease investigation

WHERE TO FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Phone Assistance:



SITUATION REPORT #140

- Washington State Department of Health: [800-525-0127](tel:800-525-0127), press #
- Walla Walla County Community Health Information line: [509-524-2647](tel:509-524-2647)

Web Site Information:

- DCH <https://www.covidwwc.com/walla-walla-county>
- OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease page: www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus
- Washington Department of Health: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- CDC COVID-19 page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC travel notice: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>
- WHO page: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>

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DISTRIBUTED TO: Walla Walla County BOCC & Clerk of the Board; Providence St. Mary Medical Center Staff, Region 8 PHEPR-RERC, Benton-Franklin Health District, Umatilla Co. LHJ Director, Walla Walla County EMD and EMS & MPD, WA DOH Duty Officer, WA DOH LOFR; Klickitat LERC; Yakima LERC; Benton-Franklin LERC; Columbia Co. Director; REDi HCC, Columbia Co. LHJ, City of Walla Walla, City of College Place, City of Waitsburg, McMorris-Rogers Rep. Port of Walla Walla, and Health Office